

**DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN DENTISTRY**

**3 CAPITOL HILL
CONFERENCE ROOM # 401
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015
8:00AM**

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Carleton Cappuccino, DMD, Chairman
Stephen Puerini, DMD, Vice Chairman
Donald Williams, Secretary
Russell Chin, DDS
Caroline Danish, DDS
Jeffrey Dodge, DMD
Martin Elson, DDS
Kerri Friel, RDH, COA, CDA, MA
Eric George, DMD
Susan Perlini, RDH, BS
Robert Ricci, Ph.D.
Maryellen Simas, RDH

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Martin Nager, DMD
Louis Marciano, BS, M.Ed.

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Amy Coleman, JD
Donna Costantino, MBA
Robert O'Donnell, MS
Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH
Donna Valletta

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marie Jones – Bridges – RIDHA
Christy Durant – RIOMS
Rebecca Kislak, JD – RIHCA
Diane Monti-Markowski – BCBSRI
Patrick Quinlan, JD - RIDA

1. Establishment of a Quorum

A meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Beck Conference Room, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 8:00AM on a motion by Stephen Puerini, DMD, and seconded by Jeffrey Dodge, DMD. The Board voted unanimously to open. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment

Attorney Rebecca Kislak (RIHCA) spoke in regards to the difficulty of getting a license in the State of Rhode Island because of all the paperwork and approval by the Board on a monthly basis. Attorney Kislak stated that new legislation is needed to improve the way the Department of Health license applications and that she would be willing to introduce new legislation.

3. Presentation of the March 4, 2014 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Jeffrey Dodge, DMD, and seconded by Donald Williams to accept the Open Session minutes for the Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry, Dentistry Examining Committee and Dental Hygienist Examining Committee for March 4, 2015. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. Chairperson's Report

• Communications

Chairman Carleton Cappuccino, DMD, discussed the July meeting to see if anyone would have a conflict because of vacations. It was determined that the July 1, 2015 meeting date would remain the same.

Dr. Alexander-Scott spoke to the Board to introduce herself as the new Director for the Rhode Island Department of Health.

5. Old Business

- **Moderate Sedation, Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia Office Evaluation Forms** – Martin Elson, DDS, had updated Board on moving forward on evaluations forms he is working on. Dr. Elson requested the list of applicants for facilities which need inspections done.
- **Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Dentist, Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants** - A discussion was made on proposed new Rules and Regulations. Department was planning on having regulations go directly to Public Hearing to expedite the process as much as possible. Patrick Quinlan, JD, of RIDA requested that the regulations proceed to Community Review first. Motion was made by Don Williams and seconded by Kerri Friel, RDH, COA, CDA, MA, to have them go to Community Review. The Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion carried.

6. New Business

- **Complaint Letters** – A discussion and a motion was made by Stephen Puerini, DMD, and seconded by Caroline Danish, DDS, that all correspondence letters be marked Confidential. The Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion carried.
- **Non-CODA approved Dental Assistant Training Programs and Radiographs** – discussion on how this school is not approved as they are not CODA approved. Motion was made by Kerry Friel, RDH, and seconded by Maryellen Simas, RDH, to have Amy Coleman, JD, write a letter advising Ridley-Lowell Business & Technical Institute of what is required to be license in the State of Rhode Island. The Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion carried.
- **Online Post-Licensure Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene** – A discussion on a question that was sent in by Shane DeGarmo, Accreditation and Regulatory Affairs Coordinator at Herzing University who wrote to inquire about you board's role in reviewing online post-licensure dental hygiene degree programs offered by out-of-state colleges and universities. Herzing University, located in Wisconsin, is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and operates eleven campuses throughout the United States. The university is exploring the possibility of transitioning its current campus-based Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene-Bridge program, offered on-ground at its Minneapolis campus, into an online program.
- This was his inquiry: The program is a post-licensure program. Prospective students must have graduated from a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program with an associate's degree, hold an active

license, and be in good standing as a dental hygienist. Mr. DeGarmo asked whether the Department reviews and approves online post-licensure baccalaureate dental hygiene bridge programs. If yes, is there a specific review process that the university must complete? Are there fees associated with submitting a request?

Do faculty teaching in such programs, residing in- or out-of-state, need to possess an active license from your state in order to provide instruction to residents of our state?

The Board stated that in regards to this question, as long as the licensee is a graduate of a CODA dental hygiene school there should not be any issues because a baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene is not requirement for licensure in Rhode Island.

- **Review and Approval of Applicants for:**

Stephen Puerini, DMD, announced to all Board Members present that the Examining Committee for applicants applying for licensure as a Dentist, Dental Anesthesia Permits, and Dental Anesthesia Facility Permits had met on this date at 7:45AM and reviewed the applicants and recommend they be approved for licensure in:

Dentist Licensure:

- Meera Sharma

Dental Hygienists Anesthesia Permits

- St. Joseph Health Center, 249 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860

Dental Anesthesia Permits:

- A committee has been formed to do inspections and have begun to work on the requirements to what is needed at each level for Nitrous Oxide Analgesia, Minimum Sedation, Moderate Sedation and Deep/General Sedation in facilities. The Rhode Island Department of Health does not have an Inspector at this time to do an inspection which is required for a licensure/permit.

Motion was made by Eric George, DMD, and seconded by J Martin Elson, DDS, to approve the list of applicants for Dentist Licensure. Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion carried.

Maryellen Simas, RDH, announced to all Board members present that the Examining Committee for applicants applying for licensure as Dental Hygienists Licensure and Dental Hygienists Local Anesthesia Permits had met this date at 7:45AM and reviewed the applicants and recommend they be approved for licensure in:

Dental Hygienists Licensure:

- Kelly Brennan

Dental Hygienists Anesthesia Permits

- Stephanie Wisniewski (Local)

Motion was made by Donald Williams and seconded by Caroline Danish, DDS, to approve the list of applicant for Dental Hygienists Local Anesthesia Licensure. Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion carried.

7. Adjourn of Closed Session

Motion was made by Eric George, DMD, and seconded by Susan Perlini, RDH, BS, to adjourn to Closed Session at 9:20AM. Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

8. Return to Open Session

Motion was made by Russell Chin, DDS, and seconded by Robert Ricci, Rhoda, at 11:40AM to re-open the Open Session and to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion carried.

9. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

Five (5) cases were found to have No Unprofessional Conduct; One (1) case No Unprofessional Conduct with a Letter of Concern; One (1) case Reprimand and Probation; One (1) case Administratively Close; and one (1) case was found to be Unprofessional Conduct.

10. Adjournment

The next Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 8:00AM at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 401, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Donald Williams, and seconded by Maryellen Simas, RDH, to adjourn at 11:15AM. Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. O'Donnell, Jr.
Board Manager
Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry